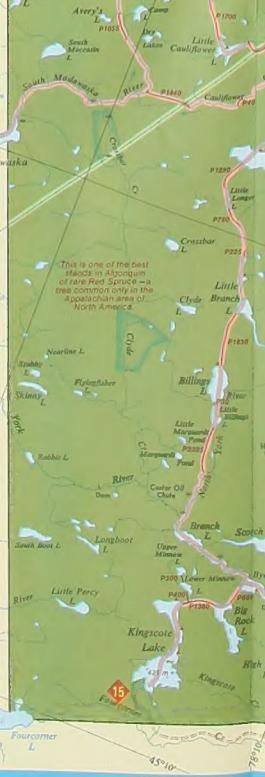
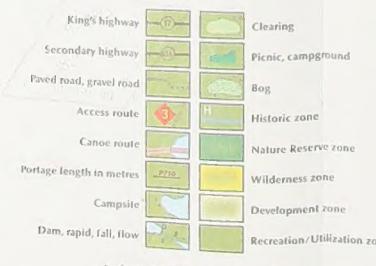


MAP 47

# ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK CANOE ROUTES 1981



Compiled by Park Staff, Cartography by Surveys and Mapping Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources, from which additional copies of this map may be obtained.

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Art and design by A. Rabazo

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## TIPS FOR CANOEISTS

A successful canoe trip is a well organized adventure which requires careful planning, the right equipment, and the proper technique. The following section of this map has been prepared to give you the canoeist, the basic information for a successful trip. If you wish to learn more, we recommend the following books. (The books on backpacking have been included here because they offer some of the most recent information on equipment.)

1. Food for Knapackers  
by Hesse Brunelle, 1971  
Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, 144 pp.
2. The Complete Wilderness Paddler  
by James West Davidson and John Rugg, 1976  
Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 259 pp.
3. The Well-Fed Backpacker  
by June Fleming, 1976  
Victoria House, Portland, 96 pp.
4. The New Complete Walker  
by Colin Fletcher, 1975  
Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 470 pp.
5. The Canoe and White Water  
by C. E. Franks, 1977  
University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 236 pp.
6. The Joy of Camping  
by Richard W. Langer, 1974  
Penguin Books Inc., Baltimore, 320 pp.
7. Movin' Out—Equipment and Techniques for Eastern Hikers  
by Harry Roberts, 1975  
Stone Wall Press, Boston, 139 pp.
8. Day-Hiking and Backpacking in Ontario  
by Eille Riddick, 1976  
Grey De Pencier Publications, Toronto, 80 pp.
9. Camping in Ontario  
by Ian Scott and Mavis Kerr, 1975  
Grey De Pencier Publications, Toronto, 80 pp.

## PLANNING YOUR TRIP

It cannot be emphasized too much that canoeing in Algonquin involves travel through unpopulated country. You are on your own, so you must leave with all the provisions and equipment that you will use during your trip. You must keep weight down to a minimum since all of it, including your canoe, must be carried over portages on your back; but at the same time you must make sure that nothing essential is left behind. Balancing these two conflicting requirements calls for careful organization and attention to detail.

One thing apart from this straightforward desire for maximum efficiency, there is another major consideration to keep in mind. This is the fact that there are now so many users of the Park interior that we must all try and develop a style of canoeing that has the least possible impact on the Park environment. No longer can we try to "live off the land"—the Park just can't support it. The ideal of the modern voyageur is to be able to look back and see absolutely no evidence of his or her passing. If you achieve this ideal (and with a little effort, you can) you will be proud of your canoeing and satisfy the conscience of your trip with an extra measure of pride and satisfaction.

The canoeing season begins as soon as the ice is off the lakes, normally the first week of May. Since trout fishing is at its best in the season, and black lines do not begin until the end of the month, May can be an ideal month for an Algonquin canoe trip. The one consideration is that the extreme cold of the water, and everyone should realize that the chances of survival are small if you are in the water for more than a very few minutes.

From late May to mid- or late-July, the weather is warm but biting insects (black flies at first, and then mosquitoes) can be a real problem. By August, there are only a few lingering mosquitoes, and although the days are usually warm, the nights are starting to get quite nippy.

September and October offer clear, cool days and often very cold nights. In the evenings it is right (usually the last week of September or the first week of October) you may catch the leaves in a blaze of colour. Each season has its own special beauty and many people plan several trips to take advantage of Algonquin's changing moods.

**Choosing Your Route** Your choice of a route depends on ability, ambition, personal preference, and the amount of time you have. Keeping in mind that a canoe trip should be an adventure, a pleasant adventure requires 4 to 6 hours a day, averaging between 15 and 25 km. Be sure to allow a little extra time in case of a delay due to bad weather.

Some parts of the Park, especially those that are close to access points and can be reached by short portages, may be crowded at certain times. However, if you are really looking for privacy you can find it at any time of the year. The best way is to plan a route with several long portages, avoiding "obvious" routes, and camping on the more remote lakes.

This map, your imagination, and a little advice from the Ranger who sells you your permit, will enable you to select a route to meet all your requirements.

**A Place to Learn** Within Algonquin Park you may take advantage of several different programs designed to acquaint you with the right equipment and proper techniques needed for a successful canoe trip. The Ministry of Natural Resources operates two Canoe Centres, one at Canoe Lake and one at Opeongo Lake. Rangers and workers who staff all these centres have many years of canoeing and camping experience. They are there to help you select a route suitable for your party, demonstrate canoeing and portaging skills, give advice on equipment, and answer any questions you might have on the Park interior.

Conducted Canoe Outings lasting 4 or 5 hours take place several times a week in the Parkway Corridor during the summer, and are an excellent opportunity for you to get into a canoe and practice your paddling. These trips are open to the public and are free. Also, during the months of July and August, the Ontario Safety League offers daily demonstrations of canoeing techniques. For information regarding the time and location of outings and demonstrations we suggest you consult a bulletin board, or ask at any Park office.

## EQUIPMENT

Canoe tripping, like other recreational activities, involves a certain amount of equipment. However, the amount that is absolutely necessary may be less than you think. All you really need is food, clothing, shelter, and of course a canoe. When shopping for equipment, you should always keep these basic categories in mind and resist the temptation to acquire gadgets of doubtful necessity. It also helps to remember that "what you take is what you carry."

Good equipment is expensive, and when you are not planning to do a great deal of paddling, you may not need the most expensive equipment. The following sections are designed to give you an idea as to the equipment that we feel is essential to a safe and comfortable trip. Naturally, there is always room for personal preference, but this can only be determined by experience. For the time being we suggest you stick closely to the following guidelines.

**Canoes, Paddles and Lifejackets** Canoes suitable for tripping fall into the 4.5 to 5.5 metre (15-17 feet) range. The longer and wider the canoe, the more stable it is, but the more difficult it is to portage. Canoes of different materials, ranging from the traditional canvas-covered cedar to a wide variety of modern synthetics, used to construct canoes. However, it is the design and the quality of the construction, rather than the material, that makes the difference between a poor canoe and a good one.

Remember also that you are going to have to carry your canoe across numerous portages in the course of your trip and therefore weight and balance are important. Your canoe should be as light as possible, somewhere in the 20 to 30 kilogram range; anything more means needless work on the portages. The centre thwart (crossbeam) must be positioned properly at the balance point, to enable you to carry the canoe on your shoulders. It must also be solidly constructed so that it will bear the weight of the canoe on the portages.

And of course, never forget that you are dependent upon your canoe to get you there and back. On the water, canoes are strong craft capable of carrying heavy loads. On land they turn into flimsy shells that are easily damaged. Never drag your canoe across the ground or step into it when it is on land. Never carry a loaded canoe across a portage.

Paddles come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and materials. Personal preference will eventually determine which you prefer. However, one rule of thumb that many people find useful is that the paddle should be at least the height of your chin. Wide paddles may pull more water, an important feature for the racer; but will prove to be more tiring to use on a long trip. Paddles should be used only for the purpose for which they were designed. Even then a paddle may break, so taking a spare paddle with you is always a must.

Think of lifejackets as part of the canoe, and never go out without them. The vest types are most comfortable, but they can be worn comfortably at all times. Federal law requires that one lifejacket must be carried for each person in all watercraft.

"Modern canoeing" is lightweight, flexible, stretchable clothes to cook in. They are cleaner, lighter, and easier to start than wood fires. They also have the advantage of sparing you the sometimes difficult and environmentally damaging search for firewood."

Tents in Algonquin, a tent is a necessity as protection against both rain and insects. The traditional heavy canvas tent, without floor or site, is a thing of the past. Modern canoeists use lightweight nylon tents with a floor and collapsible aluminum poles. They offer better protection, are easier to set up, and have less impact on the environment.

Single-layered tents of waterproof plastic-coated nylon are strong and light, but moisture from perspiration and exhaled breath will condense on inside walls and roof at night leaving you soaking wet in the morning.

Double-layered nylon tents are a little heavier but eliminate the condensation problem by covering a breathable inner tent with a waterproof rain fly. The tent floor and the lower portion of the walls should be made of waterproof nylon. This will provide maximum protection and eliminate the destructive practice of digging a trench around your tent. Mosquito netting over the entrance, and vents, is a must.

Given these basic features, there are still many different tent designs on the market, ranging from simple "A" frames to complex, self-supporting domes. The choice of design is largely a matter of personal preference. But it will be wise to choose a tent that may be easily constructed for tent life.

**Sleeping Bags and Mattresses** After a day's paddle you want a good night's sleep, and if you intend to continue the next day from mid-June to mid-August, almost any sleeping bag will provide enough warmth, although its weight and bulk must be considered. For early spring and fall, frost can be a real possibility at night, and in such weather, the design and construction of a sleeping bag are important.

Woolen results from the thickness (loft) of the sleeping bag's insulation. The ideal insulator must be light and easily compressed to give a small, light package when rolled, and a thick layer when inflated up. Waterproof down and some synthetic fibres are the best materials available now. Down compresses more readily and is lighter than the synthetics, but is very expensive and has the added disadvantage of matting and losing all its insulating qualities when wet.

Nylon being light and strong, is an ideal cover for sleeping bags, but it is not as warm as down. The best sleeping bags are those in which the two layers are sewn directly together will result in a cold spot. To prevent this problem, the chambers that hold the fill in place are overlapped in better quality bags. The zipper is another cold spot.

A well sleeping bag makes a miserable bed, so before you pack it, make sure to whisk out any twigs or stones, as a sharp twig can easily puncture a well-rolled tent. If you have to pack a tent when it is wet, be sure and give it time to dry before putting it away for long periods.

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